

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method for rapidly decontaminating contamination containing biological spores, comprising the steps of:

contacting the contamination with a spore germination composition comprising from about 10 mM to about 150 mM dipicolinic acid ~~an effective amount of dipicolinic acid~~ and an effective amount of calcium ions effective to cause rapid germination of the spores; and,

concurrently, applying a decontaminating solution to kill the germinated spores.
- 2-3. (Cancelled)
4. (Currently amended) The method of claim 1 ~~22~~, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50 mM to about 90 mM dipicolinic acid.
5. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the calcium ions comprise calcium chloride.
6. (Cancelled)
7. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM calcium chloride.

- 8-9. (Cancelled)
10. (Previously presented): The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 50% w/w to about 98% w/w water.
11. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the spore germination composition further comprises a surfactant.
12. (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant is selected from the group consisting of anionic surfactant and nonionic surfactant.
13. (Original): The method of claim 11, wherein the surfactant comprises at least one carbon chain of from about six carbon members or more.
14. (Original): The method of claim 12, wherein the surfactant comprises from about 5% w/w to about 15% w/w of the total spore germination composition.
15. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises enzymes.

16. (Original): The method of claim 1, wherein the decontaminating solution comprises a peroxygen compound.

17-22. (Cancelled)

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 4, wherein the spore germination composition comprises from about 60 mM to about 80 mM dipicolinic acid.